

and between Destruction Island (47°40' N. lat.) and Leadbetter Point (46°38.17' N. lat.), in accordance with the procedures for implementing harvest specifications and management measures. Pacific Coast treaty Indians fishing for black rockfish in these areas under these harvest guidelines are subject to the provisions in this section §§660.321 and 660.385, and not to the restrictions in other sections of this part.

(k) *Groundfish without a tribal allocation.* Makah tribal members may use midwater trawl gear to take and retain groundfish for which there is no tribal allocation and will be subject to the trip landing and frequency and size limits applicable to the limited entry fishery.

[61 FR 34572, July 2, 1996, as amended at 67 FR 65905, Oct. 29, 2002; 68 FR 52522, Sept. 4, 2003; 71 FR 78655, Dec. 29, 2006]

§ 660.331 Limited entry and open access fisheries—general.

All commercial fishing for groundfish must be conducted in accordance with the regulations governing limited entry and open access fisheries, except such fishing by treaty Indian tribes as may be separately provided for.

§ 660.333 Limited entry fishery-eligibility and registration.

(a) *General.* In order for a vessel to participate in the limited entry fishery, the vessel owner must hold (by ownership or lease) a limited entry permit and, through SFD, must register that permit for use with his/her vessel. When participating in the limited entry fishery, a vessel is authorized to fish with the gear type endorsed on the limited entry permit registered for use with that vessel. There are three types of gear endorsements: trawl, longline, and pot (or trap). A sablefish endorsement is also required for a vessel to participate in the primary season for the limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery, north of 36° N. lat. A limited entry permit confers a privilege of participating in the Pacific Coast limited entry groundfish fishery in accordance with Federal regulations in 50 CFR part 660.

(b) *Eligibility.* Only a person eligible to own a documented vessel under the terms of 46 U.S.C. 12102 (a) may be

issued or may hold a limited entry permit.

(c) *Registration.* Limited entry permits will normally be registered for use with a particular vessel at the time the permit is issued, renewed, transferred, or replaced. If the permit will be used with a vessel other than the one registered on the permit, the permit owner must register that permit for use with the new vessel through the SFD. The reissued permit must be placed on board the new vessel in order for the vessel to participate in the limited entry fishery.

(1) Registration of a permit to be used with a new vessel will take effect no earlier than the first day of the next major limited entry cumulative limit period following the date SFD receives the transfer form and the original permit.

(2) The major limited entry cumulative limit periods will be announced in the FEDERAL REGISTER with the harvest specifications and management measures, and with routine management measures when the cumulative limit periods are changed.

(d) *Limited entry permits indivisible.* Limited entry permits may not be divided for use by more than one vessel.

(e) *Initial decisions.* SFD will make initial decisions regarding permit endorsements, renewal, replacement, and change in vessel registration. SFD will notify the permit holder in writing with an explanation of any decision to deny a permit endorsement, renewal, replacement, or change in vessel registration. The SFD will decline to act on an application for permit endorsement, renewal, transfer, replacement, or registration of a limited entry permit if the permit is subject to sanction provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act at 16 U.S.C. 1858 (a) and implementing regulations at 15 CFR part 904, subpart D, apply.

(f) *Limited entry permits indivisible.* Notwithstanding paragraph (d), a trawl-endorsed limited entry permit that was created between December 31, 2006, and May 14, 2007 by aggregating multiple limited entry permits under § 660.335(b) may be disaggregated back

§ 660.334

50 CFR Ch. VI (10–1–07 Edition)

into the initially combined component permits.

[66 FR 40919, Aug. 6, 2001, as amended at 66 FR 41158, Aug. 7, 2001; 68 FR 52523, Sept. 4, 2003; 72 FR 27764, May 17, 2007]

§ 660.334 Limited entry permits-endorsements.

(a) *“A” endorsement.* A limited entry permit with an “A” endorsement entitles the holder to participate in the limited entry fishery for all groundfish species with the type(s) of limited entry gear specified in the endorsement, except for sablefish harvested north of 36° N. lat. during times and with gears for which a sablefish endorsement is required. See § 660.334 (d) for provisions on sablefish endorsement requirements. An “A” endorsement is transferable with the limited entry permit to another person, or to a different vessel under the same ownership under § 660.335. An “A” endorsement expires on failure to renew the limited entry permit to which it is affixed.

(b) *Gear endorsements.* There are three types of gear endorsements: trawl, longline and pot (trap). When limited entry permits were first issued, some vessel owners qualified for more than one type of gear endorsement based on the landings history of their vessels. Each limited entry permit has one or more gear endorsement(s). Gear endorsement(s) assigned to the permit at the time of issuance will be permanent and shall not be modified. While participating in the limited entry fishery, the vessel registered to the limited entry permit is authorized to fish the gear(s) endorsed on the permit. While participating in the limited entry, primary fixed gear fishery for sablefish described at § 660.372, a vessel registered to more than one limited entry permit is authorized to fish with any gear, except trawl gear, endorsed on at least one of the permits registered for use with that vessel. During the limited entry fishery, permit holders may also fish with open access gear; except that vessels fishing against primary sablefish season cumulative limits described at § 660.372(b)(3) may not fish with open access gear against those limits.

(c) *Vessel size endorsements—(1) General.* Each limited entry permit will be

endorsed with the LOA for the size of the vessel that initially qualified for the permit, except:

(i) If the permit is registered for use with a trawl vessel that is more than 5 ft (1.52 m) shorter than the size for which the permit is endorsed, it will be endorsed for the size of the smaller vessel. This requirement does not apply to a permit with a sablefish endorsement that is endorsed for both trawl and either longline or pot gear and which is registered for use with a longline or pot gear vessel for purposes of participating in the limited entry primary fixed gear sablefish fishery described at § 660.372.

(ii) When permits are combined into one permit to be registered for use with a vessel requiring a larger size endorsement, the new permit will be endorsed for the size that results from the combination of the permits as described in paragraph (c)(2)(iii) of this section.

(2) *Limitations of size endorsements—(i)* A limited entry permit endorsed only for gear other than trawl gear may be registered for use with a vessel up to 5 ft (1.52 m) longer than, the same length as, or any length shorter than, the size endorsed on the existing permit without requiring a combination of permits under § 660.335 (b) or a change in the size endorsement.

(ii) A limited entry permit endorsed for trawl gear may be registered for use with a vessel between 5 ft (1.52 m) shorter and 5 ft (1.52 m) longer than the size endorsed on the existing permit without requiring a combination of permits under § 660.335 (b) or a change in the size endorsement under paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section.

(iii) The vessel harvest capacity rating for each of the permits being combined is that indicated in Table 2 of this part for the LOA (in feet) endorsed on the respective limited entry permit. Harvest capacity ratings for fractions of a foot in vessel length will be determined by multiplying the fraction of a foot in vessel length by the difference in the two ratings assigned to the nearest integers of vessel length. The length rating for the combined permit is that indicated for the sum of the vessel harvest capacity ratings for each permit being combined. If that sum falls between the sums for two adjacent